

An
Essay
on the
Diseases of the Spleen

Respectfully submitted
To the Faculty of the
Homoeopathic Medical College
of Pennsylvania

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The Spleen is a small oblong organ. situated in the left hypochondriac region. It is of a dark bluish red colour. is variable in size, weight, and number, there being sometimes more than one. It is very vascular and extremely friable in texture. It is convex on its external, and concave on its internal surface.

The Spleen is in relation by its external surface with the diaphragm. which separates it from the ninth, tenth and eleventh ribs. On its concave surface it is in relation with the greater end of the stomach.

The function of the Spleen has been ^{and} is still the subject of much speculation. Physiologists have hitherto failed to discover the use of this organ. Esperi-

Experiments have proven that this organ may be extirpated with perfect impunity both in man and the lower animals.

The diseases to which the Spleen is most liable are. Inflammations. Indurations. Atrophy. Hypertrophy. and Hemorrhage. however I shall only speak of inflammation, induration, and hemorrhage. These diseases are most common in low marshy districts, and particularly in those places where intermittent fever prevails, an attack of which is likely to be followed by some derangement of the spleen. The abuse of the Sulphate of Quinine is a prolific cause for these disorders, and few cases of intermittent fever that are treated Allopathically recover without there remaining =

some disorder of the spleen. and it is advisable for a physician to make inquiry as to the probability of the patient's taking a quantity of that drug so as to be able to eradicate its effect more promptly.

Inflammation of the Spleen may be known by the following group of symptoms, feeling of fatigue, sensation of fullness, loss of appetite, indigestion. Debility, emaciation, paleness of countenance. bluish colour of the sclerotic coat of the eye. low spirits, ill humour, feverishness. talking in sleep, night-mare, inability to lie on the left side, uneasy sensation in the region of the spleen. bloating of the face and eyes, also of the abdomen, palpitation of the heart, dropsical tendency and finally

death from dropsy or inanition.

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The symptoms of induration of the spleen are nearly allied to those of inflammation, but may be known by the following important differences. in induration the organ is much harder and may be distinctly felt beneath the ribs, and there is considerable pain on pressure. also on walking or riding on horseback, and sometimes the pain is ~~too~~ severe that the patient feels as if he would faint. there is frequently fever usually quotidian type. slight heat preceded by light chills, but little thirst. and followed by debilitating sweat. during the apyresia coldness of the extremities. scanty red urine depositing a brick like sediment. These diseases are frequently complicated with bilious

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or gastric affection and then the
symptoms usually attending those
diseases are also present.

Hemorrhage of the Spleen is
usually the result of a fall or
blow which ruptures the vessels.
generally hemorrhage of the spleen
is fatal owing to its great vascu-
larity.

The remedies which will be
found most useful in the treat-
ment of this class of diseases, are,
Acon, Ars, Arn. China, Capsicum,
Carbo-veg, Ignatia Ferrum Nux. &
and Sulphur.

Aconitum is used when there
are febrile symptoms, such as,
dry heat, hot skin, great thirst,
dry mouth, furred tongue, red hot
scanty urine, quick full pulse,

Arsenicum is used when there
is debility, dropsical tendency, burn-

ing in the epigastrium, nausea and 6
vomiting, colligative sweats, pale
hollow cadaverous countenance, or
earthy colour of the face, bad taste
bloating of the abdomen. also when
the disease has been caused by
the improper use of the Sulphate
of Iodine.

Arnica is most useful in
case of injuries such as wounds
bruises and lacerations, and may
frequently be given in alternation
with Acon, with great success,

China is indicated where
there is great weakness from loss
of fluids, with loss of appetite,
coated tongue, bloated abdomen,
flatulence, colic, indigestion,

diarrhoea with discharge of undi-
gested food. feverishness, ill hu-
mour, and in children with symp-
toms of worms, such as grinding the teeth.

picking at the nose. restlessness, at night. bleeding at the nose also inability to lie on the left side,

Caprylicum is most useful in those cases attended with light fever particularly at night with considerable heat slight thirst, restlessness, anxiety inability to lie on the left side, incubus, nocturnal diarrhoea. and sometimes with slight stitches in the region of the spleen.

Ignatia is used where there are dyspeptic symptoms, palpitations of the heart. fits of fainting, shortness of breath, impaired appetite, violent pain in the region of the spleen on taking exercise either walking or on horseback, depression of spirits fullness of the face, dizziness with sparks before the eyes. cramp in the stomach. and in females cramp in the uterus, attended with menses

too early and too profuse. and in children where there is irritation from worms we may give Iyn and Cina in alternation with the best of results.

the Carb. veg is useful in stitch-
er in the spleen, vomiting of black
food, dyspeptic symptoms, such as
eructations, aversion to fat food or
milk, and is also good in hemor-
rhage of black blood,

Ferrum is indicated in those
cases attended with great debility
emaciation, deterioration of the blood,
pale colour of the skin night
sweats, congestion to the head, swell-
ings around the eyes swelling of
the veins. vomiting of food,
short breath. loss of, or morbid appe-
tite. also useful where the attack
has been caused by the Sulphate
of Iodine, and is very useful in

hemorrhage. where the blood is thin &
and watery

Sulphur is chiefly used
in persons of a scrupulous or psvic
constitution. and sometimes when
the other remedies seem to be of
no avail. we may give a drop
of sulphur and then the other rem-
edies will have the desired effect-

Puro. B. is used where there
are bilious symptoms such as, pain
in the head, thick coated tongue,
pain in the region of the liver. and
in those persons who are accustomed
to the use of ardent spirits. with
an aggravation of the symptoms in
the morning, waking with a confu-
sion of ideas, effects of excessive
mentale labour. obstinate constipa-
tion, abundant and painful catame-
nia. and during the menses spasms
nausea and fainting

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In acute affections these remedies may be given with the best advantage in the low potencies, that is, about the third, and may be repeated according to circumstances, but in the chronic forms, the higher attenuations are most beneficial such as the third or even higher to suit the susceptibility of the patient - and need not be given oftener than once or twice a day. The patient should take moderate exercise either walking or riding but when practicable walking is preferable.

The diet should be moderate and such as will agree best with the patient -